

## THE ARGUS.

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Monday, August 28, 1916.

## Rock Island—From River to River.

The United States is the most powerful nation in the world in the matter of staple exports.

Kalamazoo, Mich., staged a successful automobile race meet yesterday. Two were killed and eight injured.

The Russians report that the Turks are now out of Anah. But we suppose the Turks, like the Germans, will never be beaten by a starvation policy.

The German Zeps get nervous every once in a while and play around the British shores. It affords a diversion for the flyers and keeps the enemy nervous.

What appears to be the most significant bit of peace news that has come out of Europe in months is a declaration of war on the central powers on the same day by Rumania and Italy. It is hardly to be expected that the Teutonic allies can whip the whole of Europe.

The foreign securities bought in this country and the American securities bought back from foreigners will continue to pay interest after the war is over. This is one of the facts which republicans ignore when bewailing the "temporary" character of our prosperity.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, a republican organ, refers to the recent gathering of congressmen in Indianapolis as a "sad collection of little fellows"; also as political disturbers with no vital issue that is not endorsed by the republican party. Sneers of that character neither butter any parsnips nor coral many votes.

If you would better understand modern political methods you might preserve newspaper clippings of charges republican candidates for governor in Illinois are making against one another; then observe how they fall over each other wiring congratulations and hopes for success to the victor at the primary.

The United States census of manufacturers shows an average of 7,134, 150 wage earners employed in American mills and factories during the first seven months of 1914, up to opening of European war, as compared to 6,404,323 during same months in 1909. This is an increase of 729,837, or 11.4 per cent, and it took place under the democratic tariff.

## PROPOSES NEW CALENDAR.

"Why not adopt a new calendar?" asks Rev. H. P. Hames, a Spokane minister.

And to show that it is not an idle question, Mr. Hames has drafted it out carefully, and proposes that on Jan. 1, 1922, the world (by common consent of the inhabitants) adopt the one he has made up. His unique proposal calls for 13 months of 28 days each, the unlucky one to be termed "Holiday" and to be sandwiched in between June and July. That would accommodate 364 days of the year. The extra 365th day is not counted in any month, but precedes the first day of January as New Year's day.

He has arranged to take care of the extra day on leap year. He would have this fall in the new month of Holiday, between Saturday, Holiday 14, and Sunday, Holiday 15, and he proposes to call it Leap Year day, and treat it just as New Year's is treated. Under the Hames perpetual calendar system each month would begin on Sunday and end on Saturday.

Some of the advantages which he ascribes to the system are:

Each month has the same number of days—like a school month.

The same date in each month falls on the same day of the week.

A printed civil calendar for each month will not be necessary.

The calendar is good for all time to come, and, like Bill Nye's Railway Guide "will be just as good two years ago as it was next spring."

Holidays, anniversaries, etc., are easily fixed or transferred.

It will facilitate business calculations. A month will mean 28 and not 29, 30 or 31 days. Wages by the week, fortnight and month are readily adjusted without even referring to the calendar, which is easily committed to memory.

This calendar could, by general consent, be adopted Sunday, Jan. 1, 1922, without disturbing in the least the present calendar.

## ADVANTAGE TO JUSTICE.

In discussing the approaching adjournment of congress, the American Review of Reviews points out that no president, all things considered, has ever been more effective than Mr. Wilson in securing the consent of congress to such measures as he has decided right.

As the work of his first two years recedes into perspective, it reveals immense achievements through sheer concentrated purpose and masterfulness. There is plenty of room for criticism, and the republicans will have ample fighting ground. But the democrats and Wilson supporters on their part have the decided advantage in going before the country on the record of their legislative achievements.

The country in 1908 gave the republicans a mandate to reform the tariff.

The result was a shocking failure. The democrats in their turn received a like mandate in 1912, and the result is at least regarded as better from the standpoint of the average citizen.

The republicans talked much about reforming the banking and currency system, and had every opportunity, but left the work undone. The democrats accomplished the thing forthwith.

The federal trade commission, to deal with industrial monopoly and like problems, has not been fully tested, but it promises to be a useful agency, and it would seem only fair to say—this is the conclusion of the Review of Reviews—that the democratic record in doing with so-called "big business" is less capricious and arbitrary than was that of the immediately previous republican regime.

## HEALTH ON THE BORDER.

There have been only six deaths from disease among the American troops who entered Mexico five months ago. The present sick rate is 1.5 per cent. There has not been a single case of typhoid among these soldiers.

It is a magnificent record, in the opinion of the Chicago Journal, and the tale of good work which it tells is reinforced by the fact that the sick rate among national guardsmen at the border is likewise very low.

Anti-administration papers which are willing to see the sad fate of our citizens and regular soldiers get cold comfort from the military hospital reports.

According to these, our boys at the front are outrageously healthy, and the democratic army administration is proving itself immensely efficient.

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## UNNECESSARY SACRIFICE.

As a people we are not deeply impressed by extraordinary loss of life unless it comes through some great calamity. The Titanic and Eastland disasters sent a thrill of horror throughout the country, and inspired many reforms designed to prevent their recurrence, but the loss of the same number of lives by ones, twos and threes, if spread over a few months, hardly compels a second thought. This tendency of human nature is strikingly illustrated in the case of automobile accidents at grade crossings. Statistics of undoubted accuracy show that three persons a day, year in and year out, lose their lives in such accidents. But the statement passes in at one ear and out at the other. Apparently it means nothing to us. Yet every grade crossing accident is entirely preventable.

Every one of the 1,058 lives thus sacrificed the past year was thrown away. Nor is the grade crossing problem likely to grow less in the present generation. Our grandchildren or great-grandchildren may undertake its solution, but even that is doubtful. No signs, warnings or safeguards can take the place of individual caution. A moment's time and the use of a reasonable amount of common sense by each individual party would instantly eliminate the evil. The lack of willingness to take such precautions in this as in other matters is the most serious obstacle to any reform which looks to the protection of human life. Modern civilization exacts a crushing toll from the heedless and unwary.

## TELLING PUBLIC.

In the current issue of the American Press is a little item entitled "Farmer's Fine Defense." The story deals with a merchant who saw the farmer call for a package at the railroad station, the package bearing the label of a small order house in a big city. The merchant naturally upbraided his neighbor for not trading at home, explaining that he carried the same goods in stock at attractive prices which the farmer had ordered from the foreign concern.

The farmer's reply was ready in a moment. "Why don't you advertise in the local paper if you have the goods?" This little story carries a great business moral and offers a solution for an evil from which local merchants have long suffered and for which they themselves are in a measure responsible.

The solution for the mail order evil lies in advertising by the local merchant. Local people cannot know what the local merchants have in stock if they are not informed through the local newspapers. The merchant can gradually learn the truth of this fact and are fighting mail order houses with the same weapons which have made the latter the tremendous force they are today—namely, advertising.

The newspaper publisher should let no opportunity go by for preaching advertisement to his local merchants. This little story will serve as a lesson. It would be a good thing for publishers to reprint it and send copies to all the business men in town.

## SHAKING HANDS.

Handshaking is one of the big duties of the president of the United States. For this activity alone President Wilson uses up 50 hours of his time during his four-year term of office, at a cost of \$1,280.

Fifty handshakes a day is a considerable business for the president. It was more when he took office, but Wilson is the man who eliminated public receptions which called for thousands or more handshakes.

Still, between 20 and 30 engagements are made daily by the president, except on his days off, and many of these are for two to five persons at a time. This means a handshake for each person. This is in the regular course of his duties.

Then come the big delegations brought by congressmen and senators, at least one a week. Besides, there are other delegations requiring a handshake for each member.

When the 640 men representing the railroad brotherhood went to Washington for conference, the president has the biggest handshaking job of the year. The husky workmen gripped his hand enthusiastically. But 640 firm hand grasps were too much for the president, so the men were ordered to "touch" his hand.

Counting 300 days to the year and 50 shakes a day, each consuming three seconds, the president spends 124 hours a year grasping hands. This is 50 hours a day, year in and year out, or six days and two hours, working eight hours a day.

The office of president pays \$75,000 a year, so it requires \$1,280 of time merely to shake hands during the president's terms.

## Selected by Tavenner

## WHY WAR?

(By Frederick C. Howe, commissioner of immigration at the port of New York—one of the nation's ablest writers and thinkers—whose new book, "Why War?" (Charles Scribner's Sons) shows how modern wars result primarily from the conflict of powerful financial interests among the various countries. And he warns us that the danger to this nation is a danger from within and not a danger from without. We must protect ourselves against the machinations of our own huge combinations of capital ever seeking monopoly profits. He writes, "If we take adequate precautions against the foes within the country we shall safeguard ourselves against those without.")

Modern war is the result of a combination of explosives much as a thunderstorm is the result of a combination of unusual atmospheric conditions. The spark may be ignited in Berlin, Petrograd, Vienna, or London, but the explosive combination is likely to be found in obscure portions of the world.

The cause of the present European war is not to be discovered in the White book, the Yellow book, or the Orange book; the war did not originate in the capitals of Europe, even though the first overt acts were there committed.

The war is not the result of patriotic feelings on the part of the people, of the over-crowding of population, of any social unrest at home, or a national desire for overseas markets.

The war is not the personal war of any ruler as were the wars of Frederick the Great or Napoleon, as were the wars of Bismarck 50 years ago.

In its final causes it is not a war of aggression or defense, as were the recent wars of Germany, Austria, Italy and France.

When the history of the war is finally written these forces will be found to be of secondary importance.

The real cause of the war is to be found back of the summer of 1914; it is to be found in the new economic and financial forces set in motion in the closing years of the last century.

The present war and the wars of the past 10 years are the result of endless conflicts and suspicions, of balked ambitions and fears of the diplomatic overreaching and injured dignity of a thousand irritations that do not appear in the diplomatic correspondence.

Present-day wars are primarily the result of the conflict of powerful economic interests radiating out from the capitals of Europe, which, with the foreign office behind them, have laid the whole world with explosives which only needed a spark to set all Europe aflame.

Surplus wealth seeking privileges in foreign lands is the proximate cause of the war just as wealth seeking monopoly profits is the cause of civil conflict that have involved our cities and states.

It is the struggle of high finance bent on the exploitation of weaker peoples that has turned Europe into a human slaughterhouse and arrayed 400,000,000 peaceful people against one another in a death struggle.

When the origin of the war comes to be written the origin will be found hidden in the diplomatic victories and resentments over Morocco and Turkey rather than in the murder of the Archduke Ferdinand; it will be found in the aggressions of British, French, and German bankers and concession seekers rather than in the ambitions of the czar and kaiser, it will be found in the struggle for the exploitation of weaker peoples, of whom no less than 140,000,000 together with 10,000,000 square miles of territory were fallen under the dominion of Great Britain, France, and Germany during the last 30 years.

These conflicts have been on a titanic scale. They have led to the ending of the liberties of free peoples, to colonies and protectorates, to the

closed door, to the imprisonment of the Mediterranean, to the raising of obstacles and Gibraltar to freedom of trade and commerce. They have created a thousand rumors, suspicions, and hatreds, a great increase in armaments for the protection of private investments; they have given birth to diplomatic intrigues and demonstrations of force that have changed a conflict of private groups into a conflict of peoples.

Behind these private groups of financiers and concession seekers one finds the foreign office and diplomacy, the war lords and the ruling caste. Together they have made common cause with the munition makers and the trading classes. These classes own or control great portions of the press. They would public opinion. They control political advancement. They are society. These forces are the state such as Louis XIV or Frederick the Great was the state. Outside of France, and to some extent Great Britain and Italy, the state in its foreign relations is little more than the political and financial will of the ruling classes. It is a merger of seventeenth and twentieth century feudalism.

Any question as to the correctness of this interpretation of the cause of the European war will, I think, be laid at rest by reading of the record of British penetration into Egypt and Africa, of French aggression in Algeria, Tunis, and Morocco; of the partition of Persia by Russia and England; of German relations with Turkey; of the intrigues and bad faith of the powers toward the Balkan states, China, Persia, and Morocco; of the struggles of the powers over the building of the Bagdad railway; of the intrigues of the munition makers and the financiers with their respective governments and foreign offices.

The gravest danger to the country is from within. The danger is as real as any that ever confronted us. Private interests are at war with the interests of the nation. They menace our peaceful security. Surplus wealth has appeared. We have become a creditor nation. The resources and railroads of the country have passed under monopoly control. The colossal profits of the past two decades from exploitation are no longer possible. They have been absorbed in the less developed places of the globe, where backward people and lack of capital offer opportunities for investment. These are the conditions that have preceded imperialism and aggression the world over. Surplus wealth in search of monopoly profits led the financiers of Europe into distant parts. Here they came into conflict with the local financiers in search of similar gains. To protect their investments and insure their loans and concessions the investors demanded a great military and naval establishment. The foreign office and governments became involved. Irritations and diplomatic controversies finally ripened into war. The only means for the arbitration of the conflict.

This is the danger which now confronts us. It is a danger from within rather than from without. It is a danger we should anticipate and provide against. Just as we provide against a foreign war. And if we take adequate precautions against the foes within the country we shall safeguard ourselves against those without.

For if the war in Europe teaches anything it is that the foes within are responsible for the foes without.

It is they who are the jingoes. It is they who are loudest in advocating preparedness, it is they who talk most of national dignity and honor.

It is they, too, who insist on the destiny of the country and a place in the sun.

There is scarcely a war or war scars of the past 20 years, unless it be those of the Balkans, that in its last analysis, is not the result of the activities of individuals and classes within the country rather than of aggressive foes from without.

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## CHORDS AND DISCORDS

WOMEN at eastern beaches are painting their legs to fool policemen whose orders are to suppress too much display of bareness. One wonders who does the painting for the fat ones.

"WHEN I married Helen Morton I loved her as much as man ever loved any woman," says Roger Bayly, who has been sued for divorce by his wife, a professor, a little slow music. Such a beautiful sentiment, so rarely voiced among our best people, should not go unrewarded. And, besides, Rog admits, he needs the money.

WHAT has become of the old-fashioned cloister who used to throw in a pair of suspenders with every suit?

WELL, no matter how the railroad crisis eventuates, the 600 brotherhood representatives and the railroad presidents and managers had a pleasant visit at the national capital.

WHENEVER a woman kills a man before the Mason and Dixon line she pleads the unwritten law. In the north she employs a lawyer who knows the art of makeup and has her fix up to win the sympathy of the jurors. And she usually succeeds.

WHO knows but that Germany has laid out a route on the bottom of the ocean over which she is dragging her submersible freighters on wheels. Stranger things have happened. At any rate the Teutons have framed some means of getting the boats by the British warships and nets that is getting the enemy's nannie.

Country Town Sayings—Ed Howe.

The newspapers say the people demand a thing long before the people have thought of it.

No use grumbling; people won't act to suit you.

Intuition is usually suspicion.

Your best luck comes while you are behaving best.

Many a man who is not perfect is a tolerably good fellow, and useful in a modest way.

To be mated is man's natural condition; when he remains a bachelor, some woman has scared him.

English sparrows are the proletariat of the bird world. And how they multiply!

A man's first intention is to be fair; while he is in this humor, make him sign a contract.

TOM Marshall isn't going to be notified of his nomination for vice president until Sept. 14. His friends are putting the date far enough forward so that he won't have an excuse for claiming that he didn't know that he was supposed to repeat. It is becoming more manifest with each succeeding national election that men are prompted purely by party loyalty in accepting vice presidential nominations. The only saving feature of the office is that invariably it goes to the man.

For instance, the republicans this year had to have a man with whiskers to make the ticket harmonious pictorially. That's the chief reason for Fairbanks.

ALONG with the pleasant change in weather comes the cheering announcement that congress may adjourn next Friday. Verily, we have much to be thankful for.

"CALL me 'Charley,'" pleads Mr. Hughes to the boys he expects to put him in the White house. "Yes," says L. E. W., "we'll call you, Charley, and we'll call you good and plenty when it comes time to cast our votes."

PERSONS who wear false teeth are advised to remove same while traveling over the Ninth street road in automobiles. Two sets are said to have been found recently in the middle of that highway.

TERMS of peace announced in Berlin provide for the retention of Belgium, which ought to be sufficient explanation of the care which the empire is exercising in the restoration of the cities destroyed in the invasion of that country by its armies.

WILDCAT attacked an automobile being driven along a country road near Athens, Wis. The wildcat lost the battle. It isn't necessary to mention the name of the car.

ONE of the candidates for the republican nomination for state attorney of Cook county says, if he is elected, he will be satisfied with the salary the office carries, and will turn all fees over to the county. Did or did not Mr. Deneen make a similar promise before his election to the same office? At any rate, Mr. Deneen appears to have lived happy ever after.

HALE Holden president of the Burlington, who is spokesman for the railroad magnates at Washington, is the youngest rail chief in America. It is said when a conference of the presidents is called at the capital these days present join in singing, "Hale, Hale, the gang's all here."

IT is claimed that the primary campaign in Illinois will cost the candidates, from governor down, more than \$2,500,000. Which gives rise to the old inquiry, who pays?

MISS Vollmer of Davenport didn't find any comfort under the shade of the sheltering Palm. It would seem she has sued him for divorce on the charge that he was guilty of an indiscretion in Chicago on July 4. Probably shot his mouth off.

ADMIRAL Dewey declares that America will rule the seas. Ignatz ventures that George is seeing double these days.

YOU may or may not be interested in knowing that William V. Shy is cashier of a bank in Woodward, Okla.

THE Iowa City Citizen calls them "Ziegfeld's Filles." A pardonable typographical error.

IT is claimed by some that Milford Morrison was bled by the sun cult. From what we have read of the testimony we had reached the conclusion that it was the moon cult that did the bleeding.

J. M. C.

## The Daily Story

A Picture Playwright—By F. A. Mitchell.

One morning a man bearing a passport signifying that he was a citizen of Holland appeared in the rear of the German lines and asked permission to go through into Belgium. He was taken before Colonel Dietrich, who was charged with the examination of those desiring to pass out of Germany to discover if they bore any information that the government would not care to have carried out of the country.

The traveler—Van Gassboch was the name entered on his passport—was led to the quarters of the colonel, carrying a suit case, his only baggage.

"Open it," said the officer pointing to the suit case.

Van Gassboch laid open the case, and the colonel directed a soldier to dump the contents on a table. This done, the colonel drew a chair near the pile and, taking up each article it contained, scrutinized it minutely. There were some linen, brushes and combs and other toilet articles. These he laid aside and, finally, he rolled out a manuscript, pounced upon it suspiciously.

"What is this?" he asked, removing it from the envelope containing it.

"A scenario for a picture play."

The colonel turned over one page after another, not reading them, but looking for what might indicate material for covering information of the German situation.

"What are these drawings?" he asked.

"Suggestions for scenery to be produced in the play," was the reply.

"What is this a Zeppelin?"

"No, colonel; that is intended to represent a cloud."

"H'm, you Dutchmen know nothing about art."

"I don't pretend to be an artist. As I have told you, colonel, these are merely suggestions. They are intended to indicate to the artist what is required."

"I should think so. Well, I must read this manuscript, and I cannot do so at once, so you must wait."

"That is to be expected, only I trust that you will not keep me waiting any longer than absolutely necessary."

With this Van Gassboch was taken to a place where he was kept under guard till the next day, when he was again led to Colonel Dietrich's quarters. The colonel seemed during the interval to have thawed somewhat. His manner was more friendly.

"I did not understand yesterday," he said, "why you came to Germany to write your picture play. The theme explains it. Where could you get the material to present a play based on the Faust of the immortal Goethe except in the fatherland? Your play will be a wonder. I have read it all. That scene where Faust goes down to hell